

Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update

Building a better tomorrow

Sound Transit supports **communities**, the **environment** and the **economy** by providing affordable, environmentally friendly public transit that connects residents to where they live, work and play. ■ This document reflects the agency's renewed vision for improving regional quality of life and making lasting change.



Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update

The 2015 Update revises Sound Transit’s sustainability vision and demonstrates new opportunities to improve sustainability in Central Puget Sound. This document sets goals for planning, design, construction and operations to ensure that the agency remains a regional and national sustainability leader.

What does sustainability mean to Sound Transit?

Sustainability means making long-term investments and choices that keep the region’s environment, communities and economy healthy. Sound Transit organizes its efforts around these three principles:

- Help **People** move freely and affordably by providing regional transit.
- Promote stewardship to conserve the **Planet’s** natural environment.
- Support local economic **Prosperity** by enabling residents and businesses to save time and money.

Sustainability at Sound Transit

2007

Sustainability Initiative adopted by the Sound Transit Board

Executive Order No.1 issued by the CEO to implement the Sustainability Initiative

Environmental and Sustainability Management System ISO 14001 certified (recertified 2010 & 2013)

First set of Annual Sustainability Targets developed

2011

First Sustainability Plan approved

2015

Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update approved

Continually improving

Since Sound Transit’s first Sustainability Plan was adopted in 2011, the agency has continued to incorporate sustainability principles into internal planning processes. This strategic integration allowed the agency to achieve more than 70 percent of the initial Sustainability Plan’s goals. This 2015 Update builds on the original goals, directs more specific actions and focuses work on the earliest stages of planning and design.

Sound Transit Mission, vision and values



Sound Transit’s sustainability efforts strategically flow from the agency’s broader planning processes.

The 2015 Update includes new goals to guide the agency’s sustainability efforts for the next three years. It also revises the initial long-term goals to provide a more ambitious vision for the future. The plan emphasizes making systemic improvements to the planning, design, construction, financing and purchasing decisions that will shape the regional transit system for years to come.

Sustainability progress

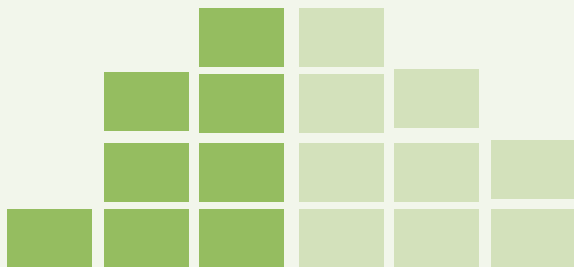
Key accomplishments in the past three years include:



Completing more than 80 percent of Annual Sustainability Targets (since 2012) and more than 70 percent of the 2011 Sustainability Plan's short-term goals.



Achieving more than 150 Annual Sustainability Targets by 2013



Meeting nearly half (8 of 17) of the 2011 Sustainability Plan's long-term goals in just three years. Sound Transit expects to meet the remaining goals through the 2015 Update.



Recertifying Sound Transit's Environmental and Sustainability Management System (ESMS) to the international ISO 14001 Standard in 2010 and 2013.



Maintaining gold-level recognition with the American Public Transportation Association's Sustainability Commitment to recognize sustainability achievements.

For more details, see the Sustainability Plan Progress Report at soundtransit.org/sustainability

Transit is sustainable

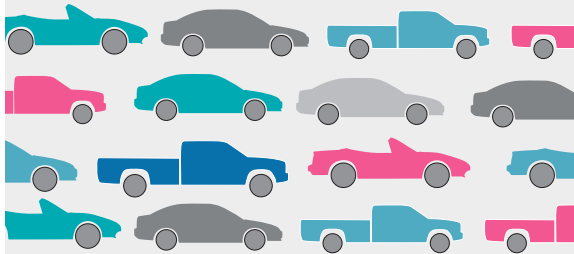
The agency's mission to plan, build and operate the regional transit system is key to sensible growth in Central Puget Sound. Sound Transit promotes sustainability by developing the regional transit system, increasing its ridership and fostering smart growth that supports that ridership.



Every day, Sound Transit benefits the community by helping to:

save time

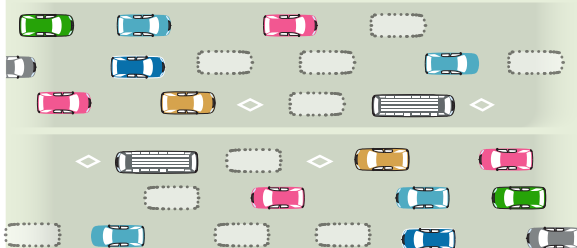
The average Seattle driver **wastes 48 hours** a year **in traffic**



SOURCE: Texas Transportation Institute (2012)

reduce traffic

Sound Transit reduces fuel use equal to **taking 28,400 cars off the road** a year



SOURCE: Sound Transit (2013–2014) and EPA GHG Equivalencies Calculator

save money

A Seattle area driver can **save more than \$11,500 a year** by switching from driving to transit



SOURCE: American Public Transportation Association (2013–2014)

save fuel

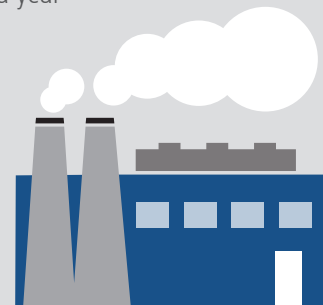
Sound Transit riders **save 15 million gallons of gas** a year



SOURCE: Sound Transit (2013–2014) and EPA GHG Equivalencies Calculator

clean the air

Taking Sound Transit **reduces greenhouse gases equal to 145 million pounds of coal** a year



SOURCE: Sound Transit (2013–2014) and EPA GHG Equivalencies Calculator

Making sustainability happen every day

Sound Transit puts sustainability into action by planning, building and operating regional transit. Departments accomplish this core mission while integrating sustainability considerations and principles into everyday duties. Some examples from across the agency include:

Building and Supporting Ridership



Operations & Maintenance Facility

Communications & External Affairs

Provides high-quality communications to customers, stakeholders and the general public.

Service Planning

Monitors and adjusts transit service to increase ridership, which reduces traffic and helps clean the air.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and System Access

Encourages residential and business development at Sound Transit facilities and properties so people can more easily access trains and buses.

Fleets

Ensures that the agency's buses and trains are purchased and maintained to run as reliably and cleanly as possible.

Planning new service



Simulation of the Roosevelt Station at 60% percent final design

Planning and Policy

Updates and implements the Long-Range and System Plans, which show Sound Transit's vision for how the system should grow after current voter-approved projects are completed in 2023.

Environmental Planning and Compliance

Ensures that the agency follows local, state and federal environmental planning processes and meets regulatory compliance for construction, facilities and ecosystem protection.



Designing and building



East Link open house

Engineering, Design and Architecture

Designs the transit system and facilities to last, while conserving resources and using materials wisely.

Construction Management

Ensures that the agency's projects are built efficiently and safely, while also minimizing impacts to communities and the environment.

Diversity

Oversees the use of minority, women and disadvantaged businesses, local businesses, trainees, interns and apprentices to reflect diversity in professional, construction, and goods and services contracts.

Management processes



Sound Transit Board

Facilities and Asset Management

Ensures that agency facilities are properly maintained to reduce costs and improve their long-term durability.

Procurements and Contracts

Manages and guides the procurement process for the agency, including the Green Procurement and Utilization Policy.

Environmental and Sustainability Management

Monitors, measures and reports on sustainability activities across the agency. Administers the agency's ISO 14001 certified Environmental and Sustainability Management System. Focuses on integrating sustainability across agency activities.



Prioritizing agency action

Sound Transit's Sustainability Division coordinates across the agency to set sustainability goals and annually monitor, measure and report on progress. The division also works with agency leaders to prioritize the staff efforts and financial investments that integrate sustainability into everyday business.

The following priorities represent the areas where sustainability approaches can make the most lasting impact.

| Sustainability Priorities | Key Performance Indicators |
|--|--|
| Make informed decisions that consider environmental and social impacts. | # of formal total cost of ownership analyses performed. # of major project and procurement reports that include sustainability topics. |
| Advance sustainability in early planning and design. | # of new design processes that include budgets for sustainable design, green infrastructure, access and TOD readiness. # of external partnerships to enhance sustainable planning. % increase of required sustainable design and green infrastructure features in design criteria. |
| Increase system resilience to climate change and extreme weather. | # of Climate Adaptation Strategy actions completed. |
| Reduce construction pollution. | % of General Contractor/Construction Manager and Design Build contracts that include Sustainable Practice Plans. # of fineable actions or other compliance violations related to stormwater treatment. % recycling rate for construction and demolition materials. |
| Increase revenue fleet fuel efficiency and reduce vehicle pollution. | % change in fuel use, greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. # of greenhouse gas savings from Sound Transit ridership. |
| Optimize facility energy efficiency and clean energy generation. | % of electricity or energy generation from renewable sources. % change in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. |
| Procure and use green products and services. | % of agency procurements assessed for green methods and features. % of new procurements that include green methods and features. |
| Foster a staff culture of sustainability. | # of staff participating in Sustainability Division programs. |

** 2015 will be the baseline year for each Key Performance Indicator*

Funding sustainability 2015 updates will be funded in a number of ways

First, the goals will be reflected in the agency's Annual Sustainability Targets, which are funded via the annual budgeting process or existing project budgets.

Second, the agency is determining how to finance sustainable approaches to design and construction as part of the new System Plan, which would ensure that these approaches are funded from the beginning of new project development.

Third, as the agency's design criteria continue to be updated, more sustainability elements will likely become project requirements - because it's the right thing to do or because it's cost-effective. These items then become incorporated into design and construction budgets.

Finally, the agency is implementing a total cost of ownership approach that will help the agency understand financial lifecycle costs, help the business case for sustainability and inform the funding approaches described above.

Charting our course

The 2015 Update sets short and long-term goals and metrics for the agency’s sustainability priorities.

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| 2030 Goals: These long-term goals represent the agency’s vision for the future. By 2030, the agency aims to meet these qualitative and quantitative goals for measuring progress. These long-term goals should be challenging, yet achievable. | 2017 Goals: Over the next three years, annual sustainability efforts will focus on meeting these short-term goals, which reflect the areas where the greatest impact can be leveraged. These efforts also work towards achieving the agency’s 2030 Goals. | Metrics: For most goals, there are clear metrics to measure performance. The 2015 Update’s metrics reflect those used by other transit agencies and local governments, as well as those required by The Climate Registry and the American Public Transportation Association’s Sustainability Commitment. |
|---|--|---|

| 2030 Goals | 2017 Goals | Metrics |
|---|--|--|
| Make informed decisions that consider environmental and social impacts <i>All Agency, Environmental and Sustainability Management System (ESMS) Committee</i> | | |
| Agency decision-making processes incorporates triple bottom line considerations (people, planet and prosperity). | Evaluate expansion of Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) to include environmental and social costs and benefits. | # of formal TCO analyses performed. |
| Sustainability goals are connected to organizational objectives, priorities and decision-making processes. | Board, Executive Leadership, and Senior Management articulate agency’s top sustainability goals and values on a regular basis. Develop a decision-making path to approve and fund sustainable design and green infrastructure features. | # of major capital project and procurement reports that include sustainability topics. |



| 2030 Goals | 2017 Goals | Metrics |
|---|---|--|
| Advance sustainability in early planning and design <i>Planning, Environment and Project Development Department</i> | | |
| Major capital project budgets incorporate sustainability considerations by the completion of 30% design. | <p>Include provisions in System Plan budget for sustainable design and green infrastructure, system access and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) readiness.</p> <p>Prioritize alternative modes of access in System Plan and preliminary engineering, as appropriate by location.</p> <p>Require evaluation of sustainable design and green infrastructure features prior to final design.</p> | # of new design processes with budgets for sustainable design, green infrastructure, access and TOD readiness. |
| Sustainability planning reflects increased internal and external collaboration. | <p>Pursue collaborations with external partners on green infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Coordinate with utilities to enhance use of efficiency and incentives during design and construction.</p> <p>Evaluate state climate change legislation impacts and benefits.</p> <p>Enhance coordination between agency's Sustainability, TOD and Access programs.</p> | # of external partnerships to enhance sustainable planning. |
| Design Criteria Manual reflects industry best practices for sustainable design and green infrastructure | Prioritize the sustainable design and green infrastructure features that should be included in agency projects. | % increase of required sustainable design and green infrastructure features in design criteria. |

Increase system resilience to climate change and extreme weather

All agency

| | | |
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| Climate change impacts are integrated into relevant planning, design, operations, and emergency preparedness processes. | <p>Adopt and implement agency Climate Adaptation Strategy</p> <p>Assess how early planning and environmental analyses can better address potential climate change impacts.</p> <p>Consider climate change when updating standard operating and maintenance procedures, inclement weather plans and emergency response plans.</p> | # of climate adaptation strategy actions completed. |
| Weather-related service interruptions and equipment failures are avoided. | <p>Track service interruptions attributed to weather-related events.</p> <p>Assess options to reduce the incidence of weather-related service disruptions.</p> | # of weather related service interruptions. |

| 2030 Goals | 2017 Goals | Metrics |
|------------|------------|---------|
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Reduce construction pollution

Design and Construction Management and Planning, Environment and Project Development Departments

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| 95% of construction equipment complies with highest EPA standards. | Evaluate and require applicable sustainability BMPs for contractors to improve environmental performance. Ensure that General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) and Design Build contracts include Sustainable Practice Plans. | % of General Contractor/Construction Management and Design Build contracts that include Sustainable Practice Plans. |
| Continue 100% storm water compliance. | Achieve 100% compliance (zero violations). Compile dashboard of key environmental compliance measures (e.g., air quality, stormwater, noise). | # of fineable actions or other compliance violations related to stormwater treatment. |
| 95% of Construction and Demolition (C&D) materials are source-separated on site and recycled. | Recycle 90% of construction and demolition materials. | % recycling rate for Construction and Demolition materials. |

Increase revenue fleet fuel efficiency and reduce vehicle pollution

Operations Department

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| Reduce greenhouse gas emissions per vehicle revenue mile (VRM) by 80%. Achieve carbon-neutral ST Express by 2050. | Reduce greenhouse gas emissions per vehicle revenue mile by 5%. Update ST Express Fuel Efficiency Strategy. Replace non-revenue fleet passenger vehicles with low-emission or other clean vehicles. | % change in fuel use, greenhouse gas emissions and criteria air pollutants. # of greenhouse gas savings from Sound Transit ridership. |
| Reduce vehicle pollution by 75%. | Reduce vehicle pollution (criteria air pollutants) by 15%. | |

Optimize facility energy efficiency and clean energy generation

Operations Department

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| Facilities and all electricity are carbon-neutral. | Evaluate how to optimize use of electricity from renewable sources. Assign an agency division to manage utility conservation efforts. | % of electricity or energy generation from renewable sources. |
| Decrease energy use for existing facilities by 25%. | Decrease total energy use 5% for all facilities built before 2015. | % change in energy use for facilities. |

| 2030 Goals | 2017 Goals | Metrics |
|------------|------------|---------|
|------------|------------|---------|

Procure and use green products services and construction

Procurement and Contracts Department

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| All agency procurements include green procurement methods or features. | <p>Assess 100% of all new agency procurements for the opportunity to include green methods or features.</p> <p>Include green methods or features in at least 50% of all new agency procurements.</p> <p>Establish department-specific goals for green procurement and utilization.</p> | <p>% of agency procurements assessed for green methods and features.</p> <p>% of new procurements that include green methods and features.</p> |
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Foster a staff culture of sustainability

Environmental and Sustainability Management System Committee, Executive Leadership Team, Human Resources Department

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| The agency promotes sustainability innovation. | <p>Initiate a peer sustainability recognition program for individuals and departments.</p> <p>Develop an award program to enable select staff across the agency to research new sustainability solutions.</p> <p>Revise job descriptions to reflect how applicable positions support agency sustainability goals.</p> | <p>% of staff participating in Sustainability Division programs.</p> |
| Sound Transit is a zero-waste agency. | Sound Transit diverts 40% of office waste to recycling or compost. | % of waste diverted from landfill to recycling or compost. |





For more information contact esms@soundtransit.org
or visit soundtransit.org/environmental

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